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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT**26 SEPTEMBER 2018**

(U) CALIFORNIA**(U) San Ramon – Two Arrested for Setting Fires that Injured Two Firefighters**

(U) Authorities said two people have been arrested for starting four vegetation fires in the San Francisco Bay area that injured two firefighters. The San Ramon Police Department arrested William Priest for allegedly starting two separate blazes on Sunday and Monday in the hills of San Ramon. Another individual was arrested on 16 September for setting a small fire and another blaze in Danville that injured a firefighter on 29 August according to a San Ramon Valley interim Fire Marshal.

SOURCE: 25 September 2018, [Sacramento Bee](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER**(U) California – \$1.25 Million Fentanyl Load Seized at Interstate 8 Checkpoint**

(U) San Diego – Authorities are investigating the source of a \$1.25 million fentanyl load that was seized at the Border Patrol's Pine Valley checkpoint earlier this month. The load – nearly 53 pounds of powdered fentanyl in bricks and 3 pounds in pill form – were found in a hidden compartment of a Mini Cooper on 5 September. Both occupants of the vehicle were arrested on charges of possession of fentanyl with intent to distribute. A recent warrant was filed in San Diego federal court to search their cell phones for clues.

SOURCE: 25 September 2018, [San Diego Union-Tribune](#)

(U) California – DHS Partners Thwart another Maritime Smuggling Incident off La Jolla Coast

(U) San Diego – Working in coordination with Department of Homeland Security (DHS) partners, US Border Patrol agents arrested eight people who illegally entered the country by panga boat early Sunday morning. On 23 September, a US Coast Guard (USCG) vessel observed a panga-style fishing boat illegally enter the US. Border Patrol agents responded and determined that all eight passengers onboard were Mexican Nationals, and identified the male occupants as possible smugglers. Two of the three women onboard claimed to be pregnant and complained of stomach pains. They were immediately taken to a nearby hospital for observation.

SOURCE: 25 September 2018, [US CBP](#)

(U) NATIONAL**(U) Illinois – Chinese Citizen Accused of Allegedly Spying on US Engineers**

(U) Chicago – Federal prosecutors arrested a Chinese citizen living in Chicago for allegedly spying on US engineers and scientists, including defense contractors, for the Chinese government. Authorities say the individual, Ji Chaoqun, worked at the direction of high-ranking intelligence officials with the People's Republic of China and was tasked with providing information about eight people for possible recruitment. Chaoqun came to the US in 2013 on a student visa to study engineering at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago. He enlisted in the US Army Reserves in 2016.

SOURCE: 25 September 2018, [Washington Post](#)

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UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**(U) Texas – Border Patrol Captures 114 Immigrants over Five-Hour Period**

(U) Laredo – In the span of five hours, Border Patrol agents rescued more than 100 undocumented immigrants during two alleged human smuggling attempts. The first rescue happened at the I-35 checkpoint where 65 immigrants were located in a trailer that had a recorded temperature of 95 degrees. The second incident happened at the same checkpoint when agents found 49 immigrants inside a refrigerated trailer. No one required medical attention and a total of 114 were taken into custody.

SOURCE: 25 September 2018, [KGNS](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL**(U) Bahrain – Prosecutor Accuses 169 Individuals of Forming another Hezbollah**

(U) Manama – Officials charged 169 people suspected of forming “Bahrain’s Hezbollah”, a local version of the armed Shi’ite group, which prosecutors said was trained and backed by Iran’s Revolutionary Guards. Bahrain, a strategic island where the US Navy’s Fifth Fleet is based, has a Shi’ite Muslim majority population but is ruled by a Sunni royal family. It has long accused mainly Shi’ite Iran of stoking militancy, which Tehran denies. A trial is set for 3 October 2018 according to Bahrain News Agency.

SOURCE: 25 September 2018, [Haaretz](#)

(U) Mexico – Mexico Disarms Acapulco Police Force Linked to Drug Gangs

(U) Acapulco – Authorities in southern Mexico disarmed and placed under investigation the entire police force in the once-glittering resort of Acapulco. Officials in Guerrero state issued arrest warrants for two top Acapulco police commanders, accusing them of homicide. The rest of the police officers were stripped of their guns, radios, bullet-proof vest and taken in for background checks. In Guerrero alone, police have been disarmed in more than a dozen cities since 2014, though none as large as Acapulco.

SOURCE: 25 September 2018, [ABC News](#)

(U) South Africa – South African National Kidnapped in Burkina Faso

(U) Johannesburg – Government officials said one of its nationals had been kidnapped in Burkina Faso, a day after three people, including a South African working at a Burkinabe gold mine run by Ghana-based Balaji, had been abducted. Security is a major concern for mining companies and investors in West African nations including Burkina Faso, which has been hit recently by Islamist attacks and social unrest.

SOURCE: 25 September 2018, [Reuters](#)

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